

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 15, 19-25, 29 and 37-39 will be active.

Support for the amendment to Claim 15 is found in previously presented and now cancelled Claim 18 as well as the specification as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the amendments.

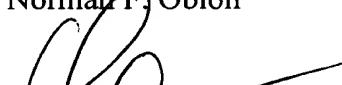
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 18 is directed to allowable subject matter. As noted above and apparent from the claims submitted, the limitations of claim 18 have been incorporated into independent claim 15. The remaining claims depend from claim 15 and therefore contain those limitations as well.

In addition, Applicants present some additional data for the Examiner's consideration in a Rule 132 Declaration signed by Anna Berggren. The stability study presented in this declaration was performed and shows that not all species within the *Lactobacillus* genera have the desired stability. Indeed, the study discussed below shows that specific strains of *L. plantarum* 299v, *L. paracasei* 9700:2, and *L. rhamnosus* 271 are able to survive in the sports drink with the micronutrients during the 5 week study.

In view of the above, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn and the application passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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